PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 10287.62
Customer No.: 000027683

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended): A concentration method using magnetic particles according to claim ~~2~~ 15 further comprising, ~~separating~~ concentrating the magnetic particles ~~from~~ in the ~~liquid having the second volume~~ second suspension, by sucking the ~~liquid~~ second suspension from ~~a~~ the second container ~~storing the liquid~~, passing the ~~liquid~~ second suspension through ~~the first~~ a second liquid passage having a suction/discharge portion and a storage portion wherein liquid can pass in a suction direction and a discharge direction through the suction/discharge portion and the storage portion has a capacity smaller than the second volume and discharging the ~~liquid~~ second suspension into a third container while a ~~the~~ magnetic field is exerted on the second ~~first~~ liquid passage, ~~by means of a pipette apparatus having a second liquid passage in which liquid can pass in a suction direction and a discharge direction, and a storage section communicated with the second liquid passage and having a capacity smaller than the second volume, and also having magnetic force means for exerting and removing a magnetic field to and from the second liquid passage from outside the second liquid passage.~~

6. (Currently Amended): A concentration method using magnetic particles according to claim ~~3~~ 16 further comprising, ~~separating~~ concentrating the magnetic particles ~~from~~ in the ~~liquid having the second volume~~ second suspension, by sucking the ~~liquid~~ second suspension from ~~a~~ the second container ~~storing the liquid~~, passing the ~~liquid~~ second suspension through ~~the first~~ a second liquid passage having a suction/discharge portion and a storage portion wherein liquid can pass in a suction direction and a discharge direction through the suction/discharge portion and the storage portion has a capacity smaller than the second volume and discharging the ~~liquid~~ second suspension into a third container while a ~~the~~ magnetic field is exerted on the second ~~first~~

liquid passage, ~~by means of a pipette apparatus having a second liquid passage in which liquid can pass in a suction direction and a discharge direction, and a storage section communicated with the second liquid passage and having a capacity smaller than the second volume, and also having magnetic force means for exerting and removing a magnetic field to and from the second liquid passage from outside the second liquid passage.~~

Claims 7-14. (Cancelled).

15. (NEW): A concentration method using magnetic particles comprising:

capturing a target substance in a first suspension having a first volume directly or indirectly with magnetic particles;

separating the magnetic particles from the first suspension by sucking the first suspension from a first container storing the first suspension, passing the first suspension through a first liquid passage, and exerting a magnetic field from outside the first liquid passage to the inside of the first liquid passage to thereby attract the magnetic particles to an inner wall of the first liquid passage;

suspending the magnetic particles in a liquid having a second volume to obtain a second suspension, wherein the second volume is less than the first volume, by sucking the liquid from a second container storing the liquid, passing the liquid through the first liquid passage without exerting a magnetic field on the first liquid passage and discharging the second suspension into the second container; and

eluting the target substance from the magnetic particles in the second suspension.

16. (NEW): A concentration method using magnetic particles comprising:

capturing a target substance in a first suspension having a first volume directly or indirectly with magnetic particles;

separating the magnetic particles from the first suspension by passing the first suspension through a first liquid passage having a suction portion, a storage portion and a discharge portion and exerting a magnetic field from outside the first liquid passage to the inside of the first liquid passage to thereby attract the magnetic particles to an inner wall of the first liquid passage;

suspending the magnetic particles in a liquid having a second volume to obtain a second suspension, wherein the second volume is less than the first volume, by passing the liquid through the first liquid passage without exerting a magnetic field on the first liquid passage; and

eluting the target substance from the magnetic particles in the second suspension;

wherein the first suspension is stored in a first container and is passed through the first liquid passage by sucking the first suspension from the first container into the storage portion of the first liquid passage while exerting the magnetic field from outside the first liquid passage, and discharging the first suspension from the storage section through the discharge portion of the first liquid passage;

wherein the liquid having a second volume is stored in a second container, the second volume being substantially the same as the volume of the storage section of the first liquid passage; and

wherein the liquid is passed through the first liquid passage by sucking the liquid from the second container into the storage section of the first liquid passage without exerting a magnetic field on the first liquid passage, and discharging the liquid into the second container.